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MINUTES OF THE DIRECTORS MEETING

Florida Historical Society

The semi-annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Florida Historical Society was convened by the President, Milton D. Jones, in the new library headquarters of the Society at the University of South Florida, Tampa, December 13, 1975, at 9:45 a.m. Attending were Thelma Peters, Jerrell H. Shofner, Alva L. Jones, Jay B. Dobkin, Samuel Proctor, George E. Buker, Lewis H. Cresse, Jr., Addie Emerson, Marian Godown, William M. Goza, James R. Knott, John K. Mahon, Randy Nimnicht, and Frederic G. Winter. The President introduced Mrs. Godown and Mr. Winter as new members of the board. Mrs. Margaret Burgess was also present.

The minutes of the May 1975 board meeting, as published in the October 1975 (Volume LIV, No. 2) issue of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, were approved. Mr. Dobkin, executive secretary, presented the financial report. He noted an approximate increase of \$2,000 in assets. Membership in the Society remains steady with deaths, resignations, and non-payment of dues about equal to new members. He reported the gift of \$750 from the Wentworth Foundation, Inc., for the *Quarterly*, and the grant of \$3,945 from the Florida Bicentennial Commission to aid in the publication of the Index to the *Quarterly*. Mr. Dobkin noted that the Charlton Tebeau endowment is now drawing sufficient interest to support the annual award. Dr. Mahon inquired about increasing the amount of the annual Arthur W. Thompson Award. The trust agreement on this will be checked before any action can be considered. Mr. Dobkin stated that money may be transferred into savings after current bills are paid, and also reported on the status of the Library. Mr. Goza commended Mr. Dobkin for his report and management of funds.

The files of the Society are being sorted, and this work will be completed in a year. The map collection has been rearranged, and pamphlets are being cataloged. A shelf list is now available for the Society's book holdings. It was reported that Stetson University will be asked to return the Audubon prints, which are on loan there. These prints were willed to the Society by Mrs. Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings.

Dr. Proctor, editor of the *Quarterly*, reported on the activities of the publication. More illustrations are being used as a result of the generous grants from the Wentworth Foundation. The April number will be a special Bicentennial issue and will carry eight special articles on "The Floridas In The Revolutionary Era." An increased number of this issue will be available for sale. He informed the board that he has experienced budget cutbacks amounting to twenty-three per cent during the past five years. He noted increased costs for supplies, postage, photo reproduction, and other items.

Dr. Proctor also reported on the Panton-Leslie Papers publication project. The narrative volume is in its final stages of writing and editing, and will be ready for publication later this year. This will be a major contribution to Florida and United States history.

Dr. Shofner reported that the work on the indexing of the *Quarterly* is nearing completion. The finished manuscript will be about 700 pages. Dr. Proctor asked the board to authorize Dr. Shofner's committee to proceed with the acceptance of a publication contract. The motion passed. Dr. Shofner estimated that the Index would be ready to go to press in about three months. The possibility of incorporating the first Index with the later volume was discussed, as was the possibility of reproducing a facsimile edition of the first volume. It was noted that Dr. Singh's expenses were higher than originally anticipated. Mr. Nimnicht asked about getting a price quotation for 2,500 copies. Dr. Shofner agreed to compile index cards for the *Quarterly* on an annual basis to facilitate future indexing.

Mr. Jones read the report on the program for the 1976 meeting as submitted by Dr. Peter Klingman and Sister Eileen Rice. Dr. Peters reported on local arrangements for the session in Miami. The Confederation workshop will be held at the local museum in Miami on Thursday preceding the convention. Dr. Proctor urged Confederation participants to remain over for the annual meeting.

Mr. Jones announced that the nominating committee for 1976 consists of Mr. Nimnicht, chairman, Chris LaRoche, Elizabeth Ehrbar, Tom Mickler, and Tony Ganong. He invited the directors to forward suggestions for new board member nominees to the committee. Dr. Shofner reported on the activities of the

Florida History Newsletter on behalf of Dr. Tom Greenhaw, its editor, who was not able to be present. An issue will be published prior to the annual meeting.

Dr. Mahon reported that membership declined by almost 100 in the past year, with the current number of members being 1,561, as a September 30, 1975. New promotional brochures and renewal forms have been printed. He raised the question of securing professional help to promote membership in a general discussion of this subject. Mrs. Godown and Mrs. Emerson reported their success in using the new promotional material. Dr. Mahon emphasized the need for directors to make telephone contact with delinquent members. Dr. Proctor gave the figures on membership in historical societies in other southern states; only West Virginia has a lower membership in its state society than Florida. The post office has refused to allow any advertising brochure for new members to be included with the *Quarterly* under its second class mailing permit. The President outlined a suggestion whereby the Society could offer a rebate to local societies for securing Florida Historical Society memberships. Dr. Proctor said that the schedule of dues is no longer realistic in comparison with production costs, and this approach might not be fiscally sound. Dr. Shofner suggested a reduced student rate as a way of recruiting new members. This proposition will be discussed at the May 1976 meeting. Dr. Peters stated that a list of current members in each director's area would be especially helpful. Dr. Proctor asked about contacting the governor, cabinet members, legislators, and members of Congress about joining the Society, and Mr. Dobkin will mail out an invitation letter over the President's signature. Mr. Nimnicht asked about advertising in publications like the *Florida Naturalist*, *Florida Wildlife*, and *Florida Trend*. He suggested putting an advertisement in the summer issue of the state medical journal which features articles on history. Lawyers and doctors will be contacted as possible new members.

Mr. Nimnicht then moved that every member of the Society be sent two copies of the promotional brochure and a letter from the President asking that each current member secure two additional members. This was seconded and passed. Mr. Nimnicht then moved that Mr. Dobkin make inquiries into the best periodicals in which to advertise and place ads. Mr. Goza seconded, and the motion passed. Mr. Jones asked Mr. Dobkin to

make a test mailing to professional people in a given area soliciting membership. Mrs. Emerson suggested a special card to recipients of gift subscriptions, and Mr. Dobkin will check on this. Mr. Nimmicht asked about having a membership reception room as part of the Society's new quarters, and Mr. Dobkin said that this could be arranged. Dr. Proctor suggested setting a goal of 2,000 members for May as a Bicentennial project.

Mr. Jones presented plans for the Confederation meeting in May as reported by Mrs. Olive Peterson, chairperson. Mr. Dobkin will prepare a handbook dealing with pamphlet material for workshop participants. Local societies will be urged to join the Confederation. After discussion, Mr. Nimmicht moved that a directory be compiled including the name and function of local societies and be made available. The motion passed.

Mr. Goza presented an additional check for \$500 on behalf of the Wentworth Foundation for use by the *Florida Historical Quarterly*.

Dr. Proctor reported on the plans for an expanded publication program. Facsimile editions of rare, out-of-print Florida books and the publication of original material on Florida history are needed. Editing, printing, selling, and financing of the books are matters that have been discussed with Mr. Goza as the officer representing the Wentworth Foundation. Mr. Goza feels that such a program is feasible if directed by an editorial board and if contributed and earned funds are kept in a separate audited account. Mr. Goza then presented a check for \$7,500 from the Wentworth Foundation to the Society to begin a revolving publications fund. Dr. Proctor moved that the offer from the Wentworth Foundation to establish the publication fund be accepted with thanks to Mr. Goza and the officers of the Foundation, and that this be done on the basis outlined by the Foundation. The motion passed. Dr. Proctor moved that a publications committee be appointed, suggesting Mr. Goza as chairman. The motion was passed.

Mrs. Godown urged that the award for Excellence of Presentation of Florida History in the News Media should be reinstated. Mr. Jones noted that finding quality recipients had been difficult in the past. If local societies would nominate candidates and support their nomination with documentation, the award could be

reinstated. This matter will be discussed at the May 1976 meeting.

Mrs. Godown asked about saving the old Capitol in Tallahassee. Mr. Goza reported that the Department of Archives, History and Records Management has documented material on this project, and he agreed to serve on a committee to present this data to the May meeting. Mr. Goza then moved that the Society's board of directors support the stand taken by Secretary of State Bruce Smathers, and the Department of Archives, History and Records Management that the existing State Capitol Building be preserved within the limits of the 1921 structure as slightly modified and that copies of this motion be sent to members of the Florida cabinet. This motion passed.

Mr. Jones thanked the directors for their participation in the meeting, and Mr. Dobkin, Mrs. Burgess, and the staff of the Society for making all of the arrangements.

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alva L. Jones
Recording Secretary

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| Sept. 9-12 | Oral History Association
Workshop and
Colloquium | Ottawa and
Montebello,
Quebec |
| Sept. 21-24 | American Association for
State and Local History
Meeting | New York,
New York |
| Sept. 27-
Oct. 1 | Society of American
Archivists Meeting | Washington |
| Nov. 10-13 | Southern Historical
Association Meeting | Atlanta |
| Dec. 28-30 | American Historical
Association Meeting | Washington |

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| Feb. 18-19 | Seventh Annual Gulf Coast
History and Humanities
Conference | Pensacola |
| March | Florida Anthropological
Society Meeting | St. Petersburg |
| April 6-9 | Organization of American
Historians Meeting | Atlanta |
| May 5 | Florida Confederation of
Historical Societies-
Workshop | St. Augustine |
| May 6-7 | FLORIDA HISTORICAL
SOCIETY- 75th
ANNUAL MEETING | St. Augustine |